Division of Criminal Justice



State Medical Examiner Office

Annual Report 2004

Regional Medical Examiner Office

Regional Medical Examiner Office Annual Report 2004

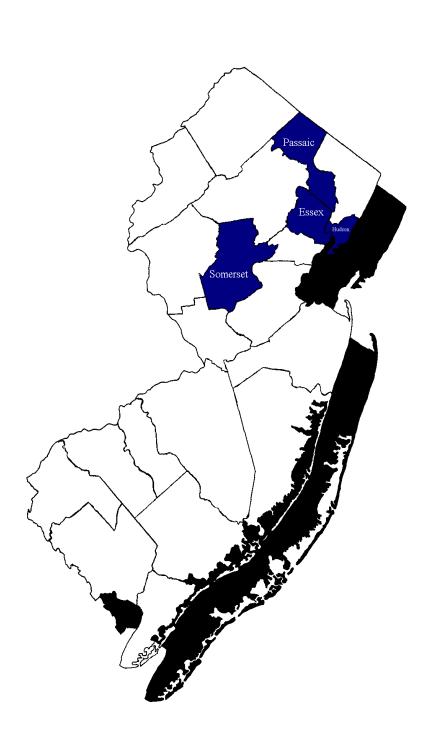


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INTRODUCTION TO ANNUAL REPORT 2004

This report represents the demographics of deaths within the Regional Medical Examiner Office jurisdiction. The data encompass January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004. The aggregate statistics compiled as well as a breakdown by each of the counties we serve, including Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Somerset are noted. This data presents social, economic and cultural habits of the population and the role of drugs, types of drugs, age groups and frequency, as well as violent deaths according to modality pattern and frequency, and their association with drugs and alcohol. Motor vehicle accidents, suicides and other accidental deaths and custody deaths are presented. Those natural deaths with which the medical examiner's office becomes involved are also included. This report also includes cases in which medical examiner forensic pathologists testified in court in each of the various counties. This report is part of a statewide system, which attempts to present data to those agencies which require this information ranging from health care, occupational and traffic safety, consumer safety, child health and welfare to name a few. We are fortunate to have a professional, dedicated staff.

We invite critical analysis and suggestions of this report, with the hope that it will become more useful to those involved in the medicolegal investigation of death.

Please feel free to contact us for any further information you may find of interest or need at:

NJ Regional Medical Examiner Office 325 Norfolk Street Newark, NJ 07103 Phone: 973-648-7259

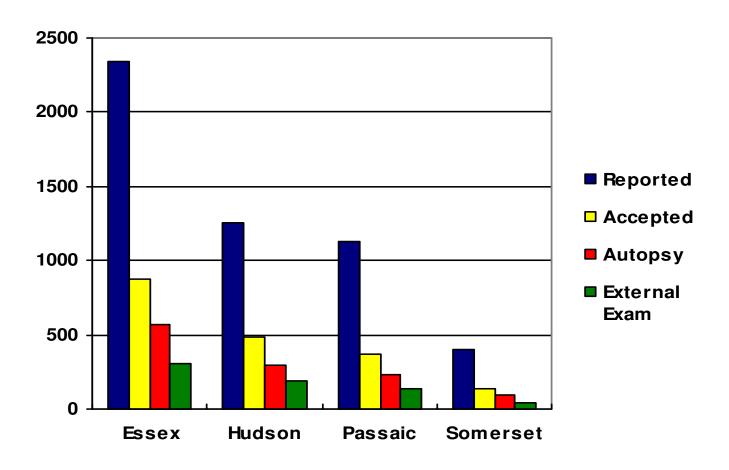
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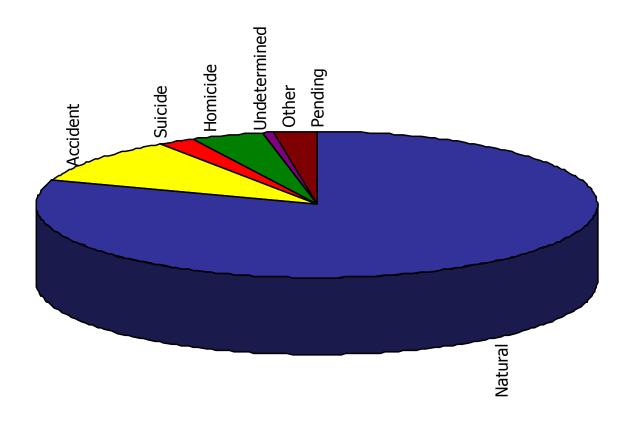
Manner of Oeath

Total Annual Activity



	Reported	Accepted	Autopsy	External Exam
Essex	2343	879	569	310
Hudson	1253	486	293	193
Passaic	1126	369	232	137
Somerset	397	140	99	41
Totals	5119	1874	1193	681

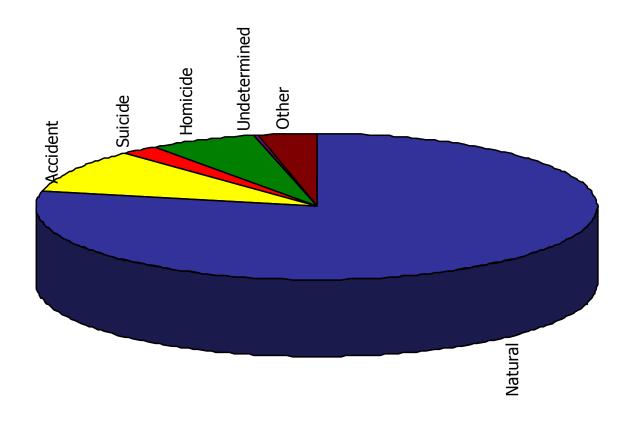
Manner of Death for the Region



	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Non Human Remains	Transfer* of Jurisdiction	Fetus	Body Parts	Pending
Reported Cases	5119	4122	499	135	211	29	16	82	20	5	0
Percent	100	80.5	9.7	2.6	4.1	0.5	0.3	1.6	0.4	<0.1	0

^{*} Represents cases transferred to other County Medical Examiner jurisdiction.

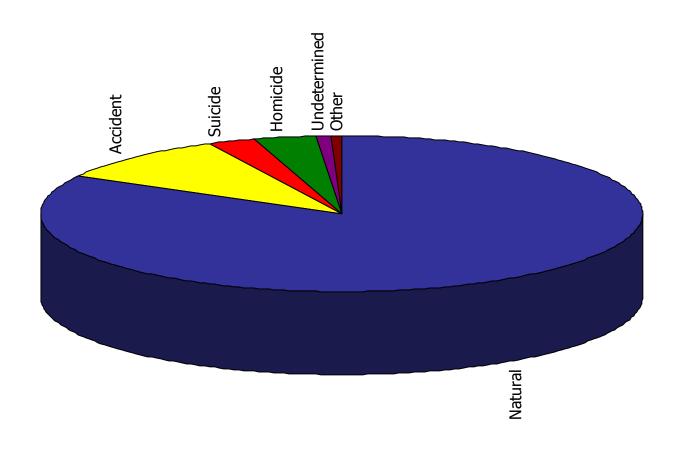
Manner of Death for Essex County



								Otł 7			
	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Non Human Remains	Transfer* of Jurisdiction	Fetus	Body Parts	Pending
Reported Cases	2343	1834	230	49	147	8	4	52	16	3	0
Percent	100	78.3	9.8	2.1	6.3	0.3	0.2	2.2	0.7	0.1	0

^{*} Represents cases transferred to other County Medical Examiner jurisdiction.

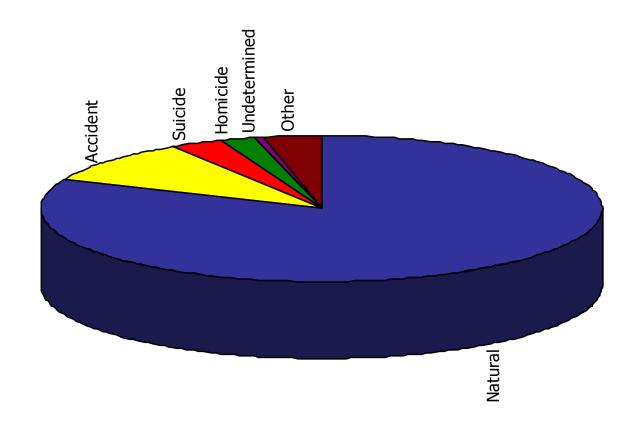
Manner of Death for Hudson County



	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Non Human Remains	Transfer* of Jurisdiction	Fetus	Body Parts	Pending
Reported Cases	1253	1041	122	32	39	11	6	1	0	1	0
Percent	100	83.0	9.7	2.6	3.1	0.9	0.5	<0.1	0	<0.1	0

^{*} Represents cases transferred to other County Medical Examiner jurisdiction.

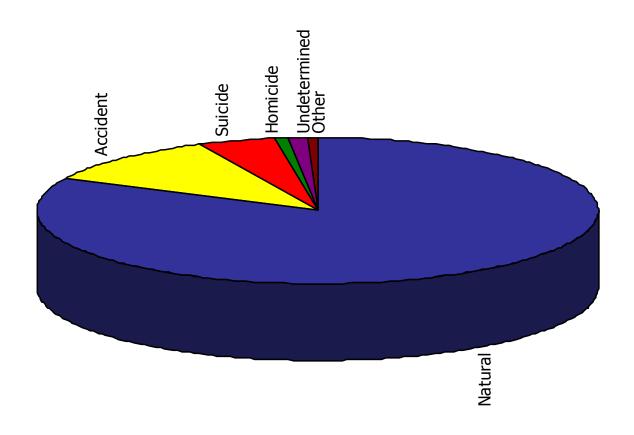
Manner of Death for Passaic County



	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Non Human Remains	Transfer* of Jurisdiction	Fetus	Body Parts	Pending
Reported Cases	1126	921	104	36	22	5	4	29	4	1	0
Percent	100	81.8	9.2	3.2	2.0	0.4	0.4	2.6	0.4	<0.1	0

^{*} Represents cases transferred to other County Medical Examiner jurisdiction.

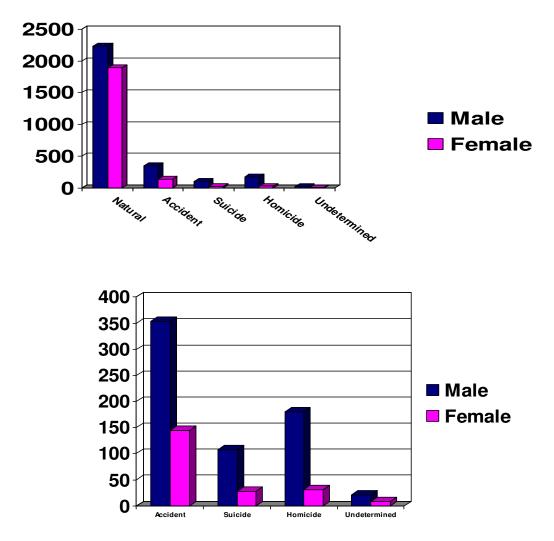
Manner of Death for Somerset County



	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Non Human Remains	Transfer* of Jurisdiction	Fetus	Body Parts	Pending
Reported Cases	397	326	43	18	3	5	2	0	0	0	0
Percent	100	82.1	10.8	4.5	0.8	1.3	0.5	0	0	0	0

^{*} Represents cases transferred to other County Medical Examiner jurisdiction.

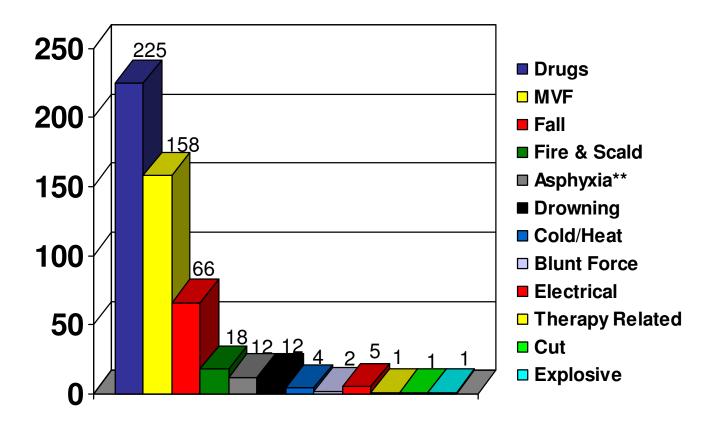
Manner of Death for the Region by Gender



	Male	Female
Natural	2233	1889
Accident	354	145
Suicide	107	28
Homicide	180	31
Undetermined	21	8

Accidental Death

Accidents by Category for the Region

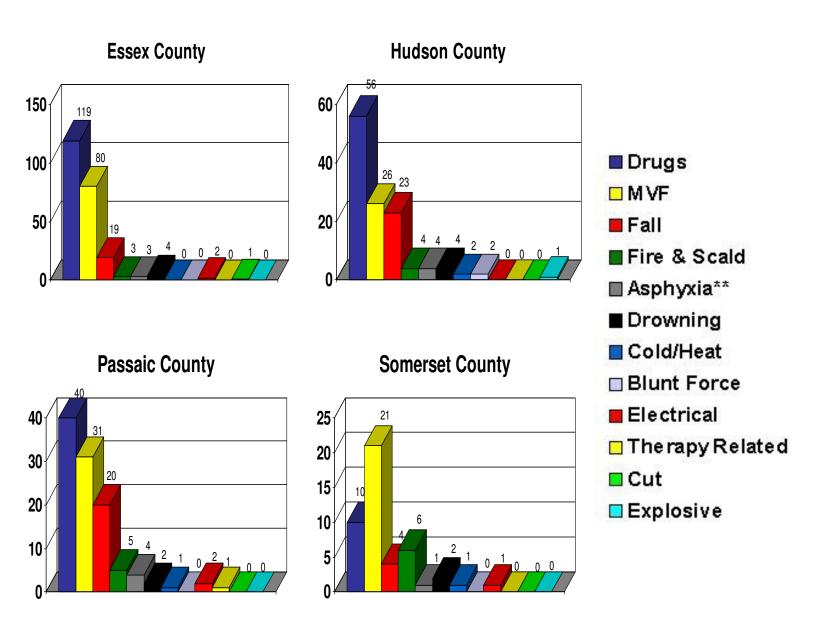


	Total	Drugs & Alcohol	MVF	Fall	Fire & Scald	Asphyxia**	Drowning	Cold/Heat	Blunt Force	Electrical	Therapy Related	Cut	Explosive
Region	499	*225	*158	*66	*18	*12	12	4	2	*5	1	1	1
Essex County	230	119	80	*19	3	3	4	0	0	*2	0	1	0
Hudson County	122	56	26	23	4	4	4	2	2	0	0	0	1
Passaic County	104	*40	31	*20	5	*4	2	1	0	*2	1	0	0
Somerset County	23	10	*21	*4	*6	1	2	1	0	*1	0	0	0

^{*}Includes Multiple Modalities

^{**}Includes positional, choking, traumatic asphyxia, and Garbon Monoxide.

Accidents by Category for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



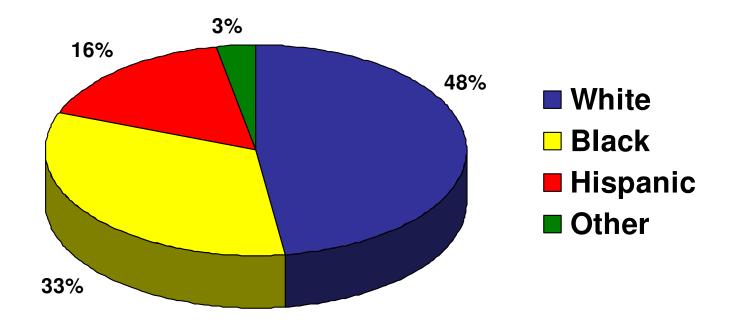
^{*}Some cases include Multiple Modalities (please see chart on previous page).

^{**}Includes positional, choking, traumatic asphyxia, and Carbon Monoxide.

Accidents by Age and Gender for the Region, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties

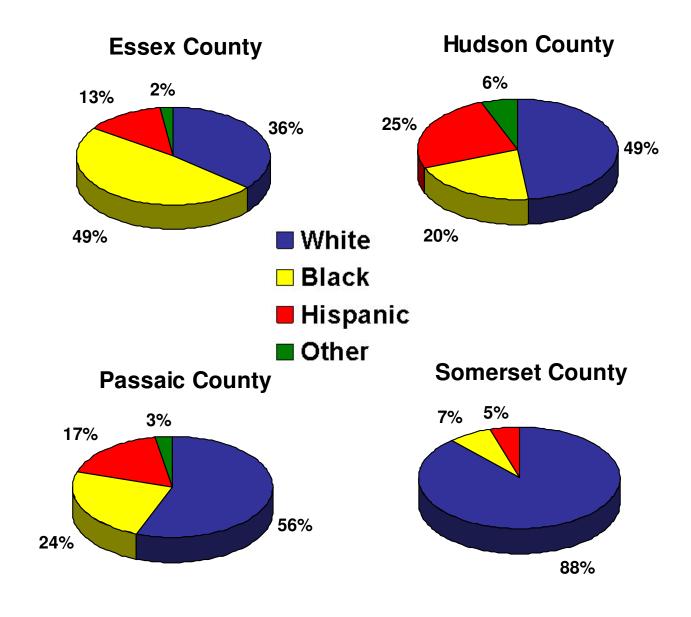
	Reç	gion	Ess Cou	sex unty		lson unty		saic ınty		erset unty
Total	49	99	23	30	12	22	1()4	4	3
	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F
<1	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
1 – 9	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
10 – 19	15	10	6	5	3	1	2	1	4	3
20 – 29	57	10	29	5	12	3	11	2	5	0
30 – 39	77	27	38	19	23	4	10	2	6	2
40 – 49	78	42	31	21	21	10	21	7	5	4
50 – 59	66	11	32	8	18	1	13	1	3	1
60 – 69	26	9	9	5	10	2	2	2	5	0
70 – 79	18	10	9	2	4	3	4	5	1	0
80 – 89	8	17	3	6	2	2	3	7	0	2
90 – 99	5	8	2	0	0	1	2	6	1	1
Total	354	145	159	71	95	27	70	34	30	13

Accidents by Race for the Region

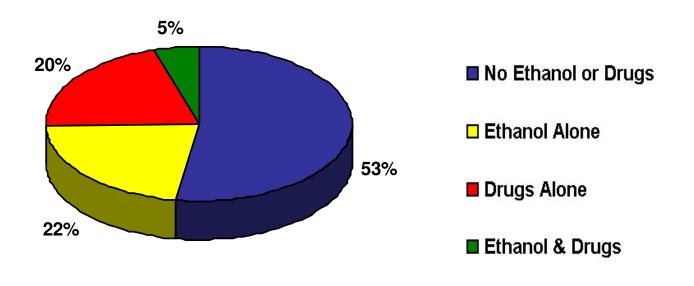


	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Region	238	165	81	15
Essex County	83	112	30	5
Hudson County	59	25	31	7
Passaic County	58	25	18	3
Somerset County	38	3	2	0

Accidents by Race for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



Vehicular Fatalities* (Car, Truck, Van, Bus, Train, Bicycle, Motorcycle, Airplane) and Positive Toxicology for the Region



No Ethanol or Drugs	Ethanol Alone	Drugs Alone	Ethanol & Drugs
77	33	30	7

NOTE: 147 of 158 had Toxicology done.

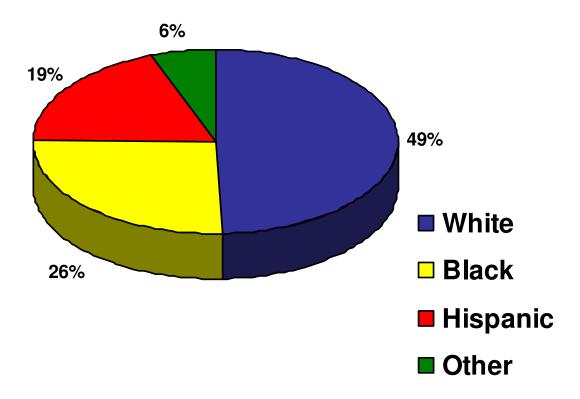
^{*} Includes driver, passenger & pedestrian fatalities.

Vehicular Fatalities* by Age and Gender

	Reg	gion		sex unty		lson unty		saic ınty		erset unty
Total	15	58	8	0	2	6	3	1	2	1
	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F
<1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1 – 9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 – 19	9	7	5	4	1	0	2	0	1	3
20 – 29	32	4	15	4	6	0	7	0	4	0
30 – 39	29	4	15	2	5	1	4	0	5	1
40 – 49	15	11	5	7	2	1	6	2	2	1
50 – 59	10	2	4	2	4	0	1	0	1	0
60 – 69	6	5	2	2	1	1	0	2	3	0
70 – 79	7	3	6	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
80 – 89	3	7	1	3	1	1	1	3	0	0
90 – 99	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	114	44	55	25	22	4	21	10	16	5

^{*} Includes driver, passenger & pedestrian fatalities.

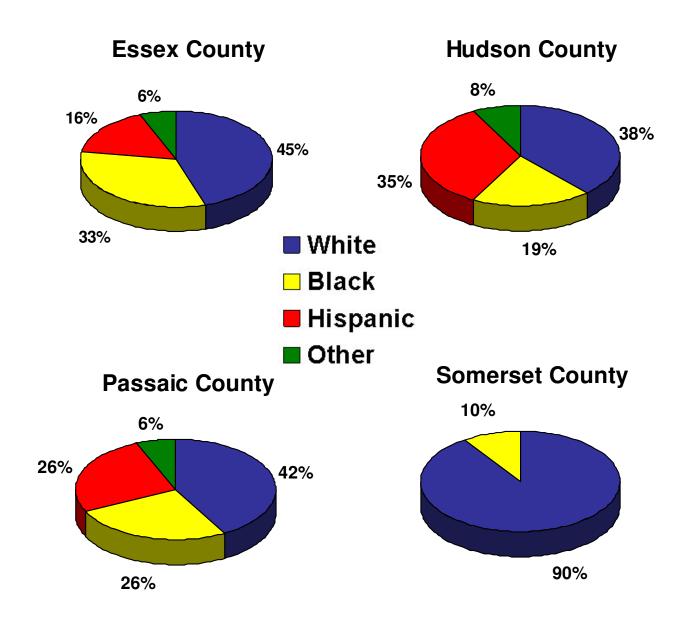
Vehicular Fatalities* by Race for the Region



	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Region	78	41	30	9
Essex County	36	26	13	5
Hudson County	10	5	9	2
Passaic County	13	8	8	2
Somerset County	19	2	0	0

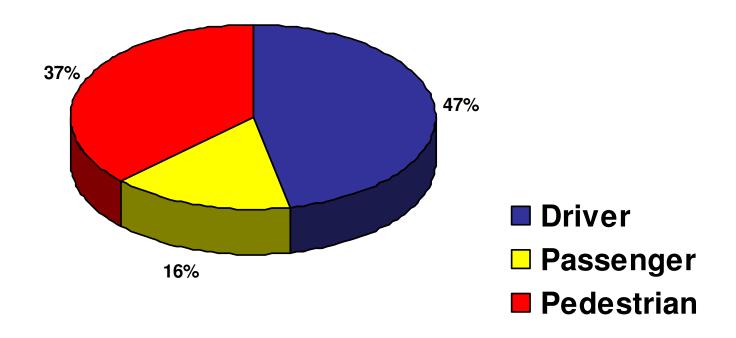
^{*} Includes driver, passenger & pedestrian fatalities.

Vehicular Fatalities* by Race for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



^{*} Includes driver, passenger & pedestrian fatalities.

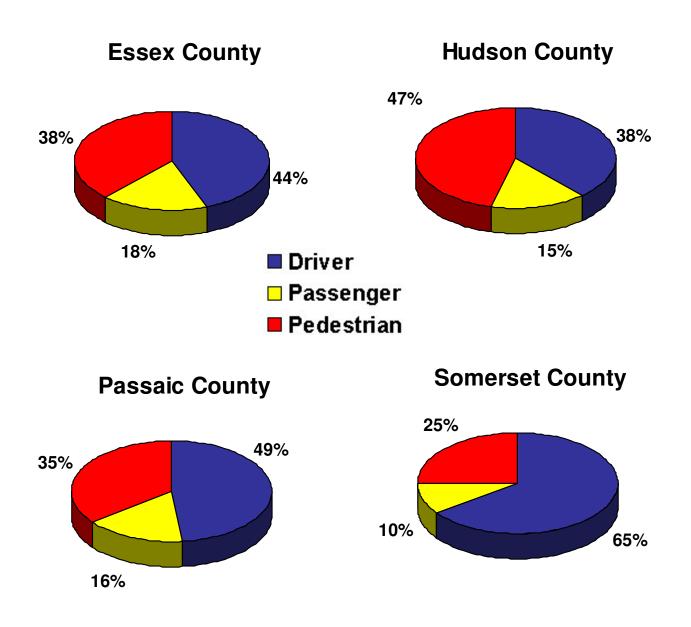
Vehicular Fatalities by Driver/Passenger/Pedestrian for the Region



I	Regior	1	Esse	ex Cou	ınty*	Huds	son Co	ounty	Pass	aic Co	ounty	Some	erset C	ounty
Driver	Passenger	Pedestrian												
74	25	58	35	14	30	10	4	12	15	5	11	14	2	5

^{*}One case could not be classified as Driver, Passenger, or Pedestrian due to the Motor Vehicle Accident causing death happened years ago.

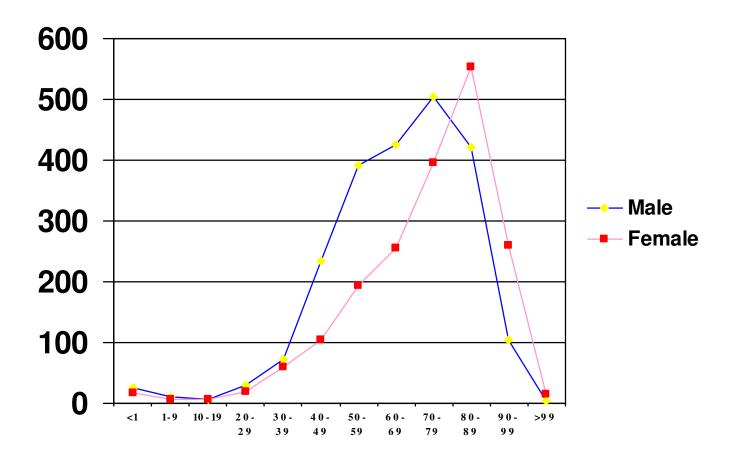
Vehicular Fatalities by Driver/Passenger/Pedestrian for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



Natural* Death

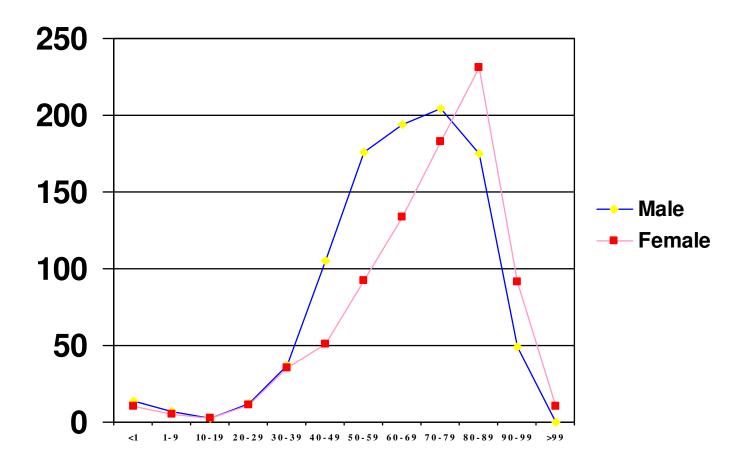
^{*}Represents cases that fall under Medical Examiner Jurisdiction.

Naturals by Age and Gender for the Region



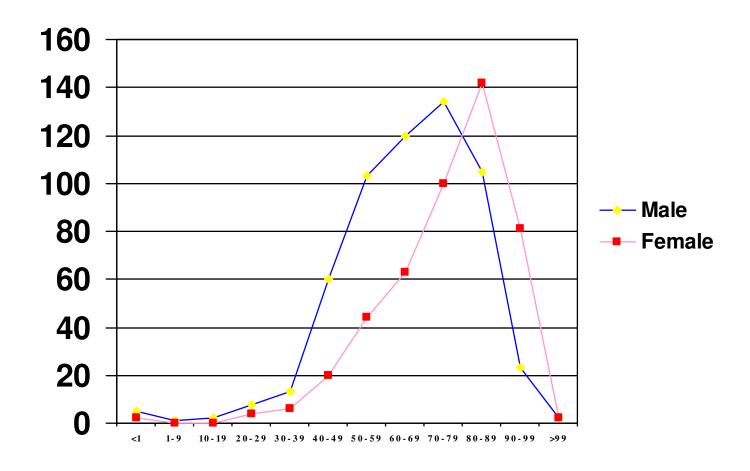
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Male	26	10	7	29	73	234	392	425	504	422	104	5
Female	16	6	6	20	59	105	194	256	396	554	260	15

Naturals by Age and Gender for Essex County



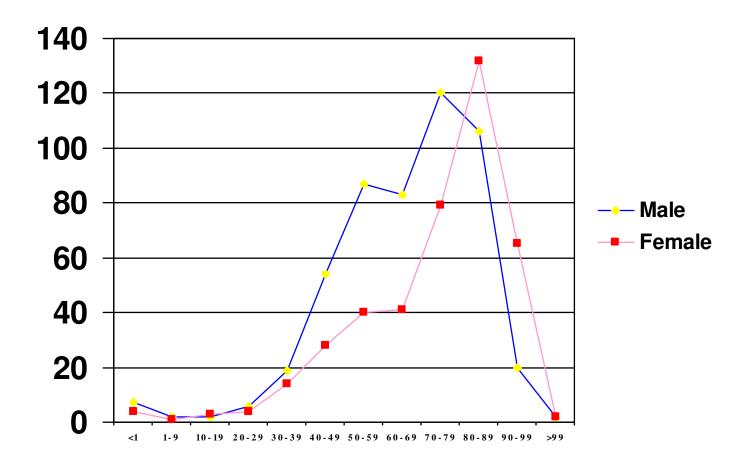
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99	>99
Male	14	7	3	12	37	105	176	194	204	175	49	0
Female	10	5	3	11	35	51	92	134	183	231	91	10

Naturals by Age and Gender for Hudson County



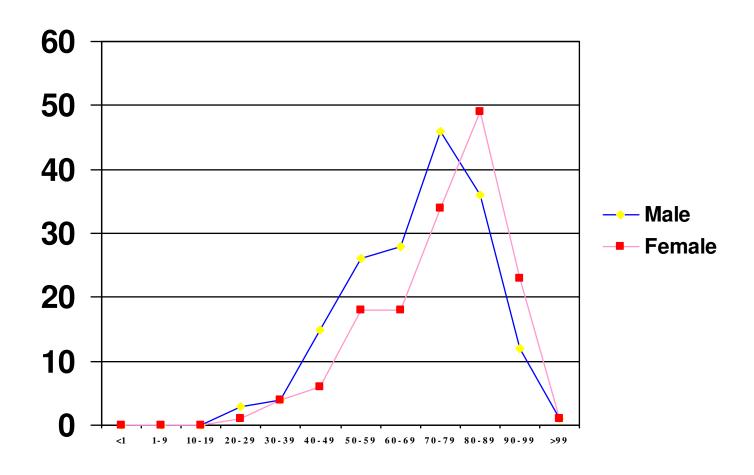
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99	>99
Male	5	1	2	8	13	60	103	120	134	105	23	2
Female	2	0	0	4	6	20	44	63	100	142	81	2

Naturals by Age and Gender for Passaic County



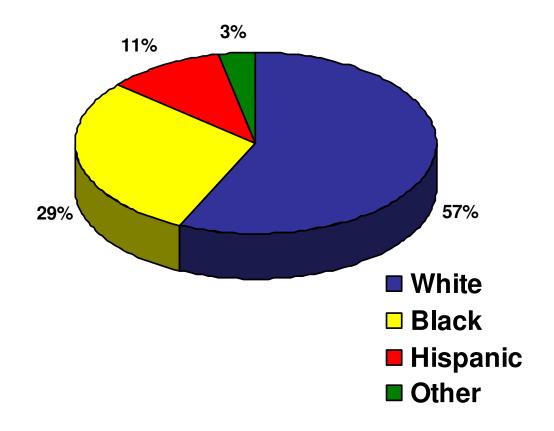
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Male	7	2	2	6	19	54	87	83	120	106	20	2
Female	4	1	3	4	14	28	40	41	79	132	65	2

Naturals by Age and Gender for Somerset County



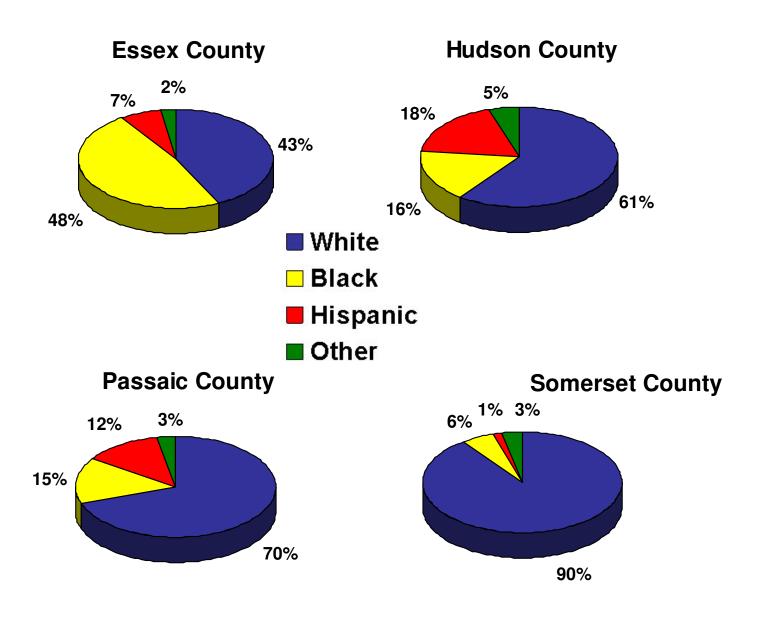
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99	>99
Male	0	0	0	3	4	15	26	28	46	36	12	1
Female	0	0	0	1	4	6	18	18	34	49	23	1

Naturals by Race for the Region



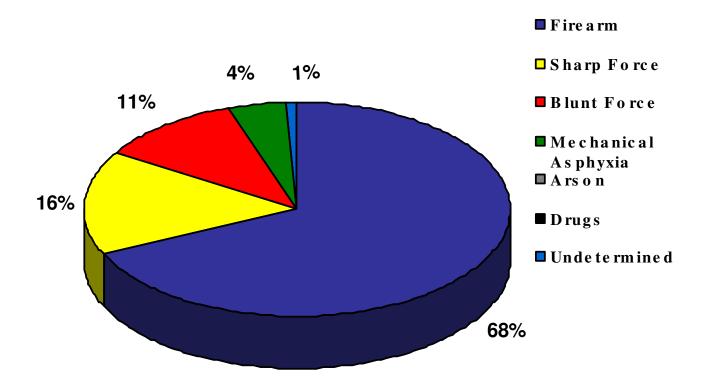
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Region	2346	1201	441	134
Essex County	782	878	130	44
Hudson County	628	170	192	51
Passaic County	643	135	115	28
Somerset County	293	18	4	11

Naturals by Race for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



Homicides

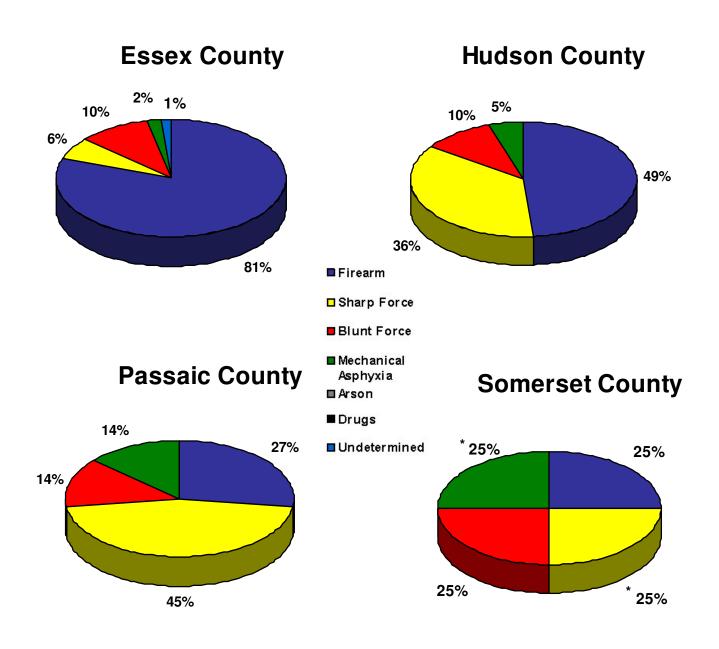
Homicides by Category for the Region



	Region	Essex County	Hudson County	Passaic County	Somerset County
Firearm	144	118	19	6	1
Sharp Force	34*	9	14	10	1*
Blunt Force	23	15	4	3	1
Mechanical Asphyxiation	9*	3	2	3	1*
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	2	2	0	0	0

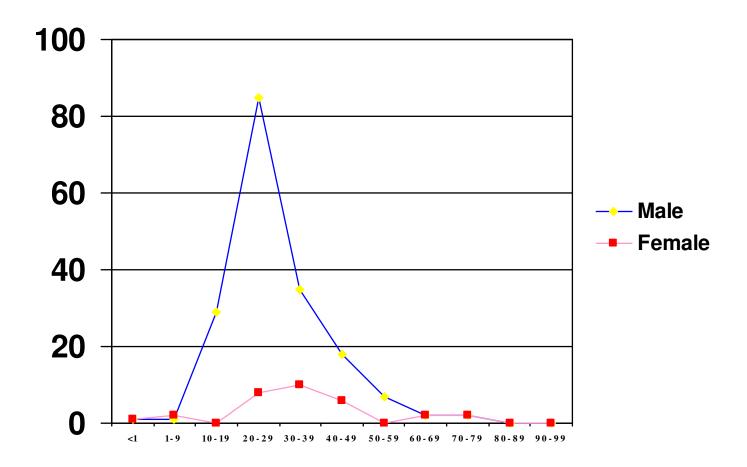
^{*}Includes cases with multiple modalities. 36

Homicides by Category for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



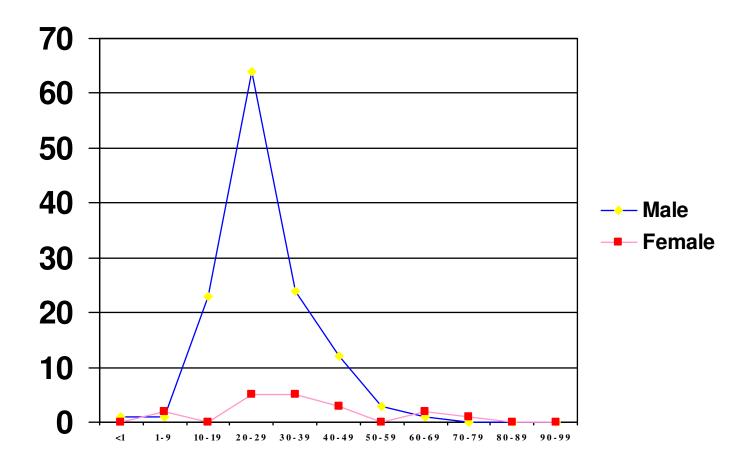
^{*}Some cases include multiple modalities (please see chart on previous page).

Homicides by Age and Gender for the Region



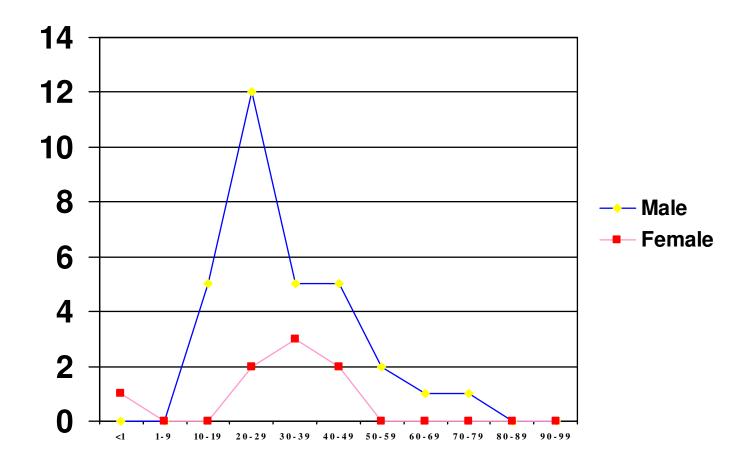
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Male	1	1	29	85	35	18	7	2	2	0	0
Female	1	2	0	8	10	6	0	2	2	0	0

Homicides by Age and Gender for Essex County



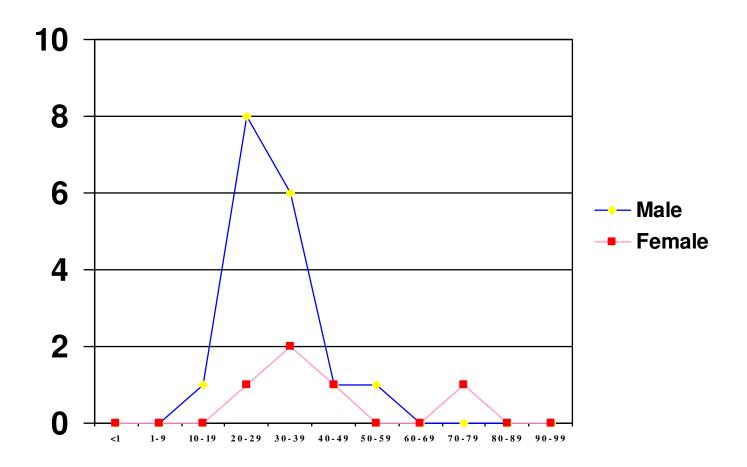
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99
Male	1	1	23	64	24	12	3	1	0	0	0
Female	0	2	0	5	5	3	0	2	1	0	0

Homicides by Age and Gender for Hudson County



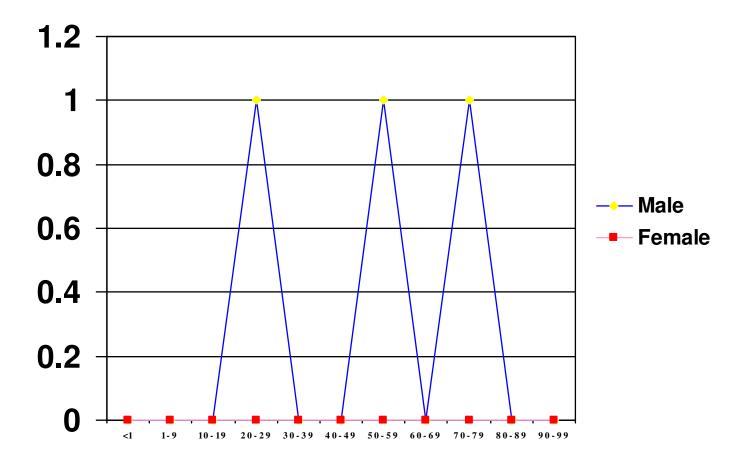
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99
Male	0	0	5	12	5	5	2	1	1	0	0
Female	1	0	0	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0

Homicides by Age and Gender for Passaic County



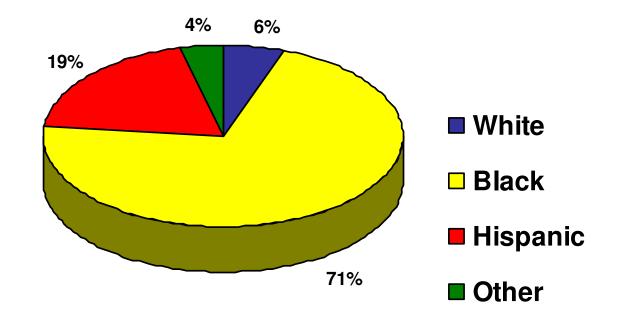
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99
Male	0	0	1	8	6	1	1	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0

Homicides by Age and Gender for Somerset County



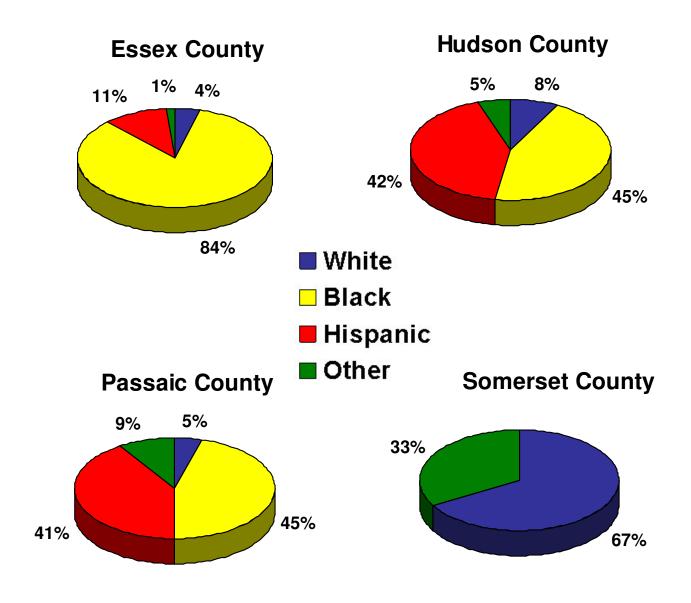
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99
Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Homicides by Race for the Region

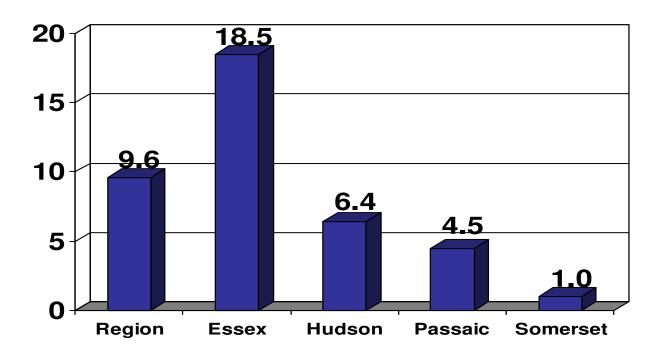


	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Region	12	150	41	8
Essex County	6	123	16	2
Hudson County	3	17	16	3
Passaic County	1	10	9	2
Somerset County	2	0	0	1

Homicides by Race for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



Homicide Rate



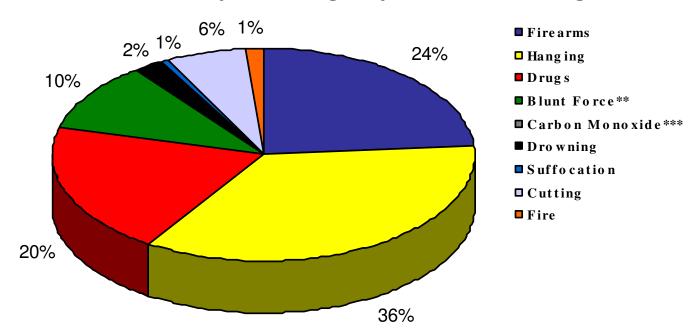
	Region	Essex County	Hudson County	Passaic County	Somerset County
Homicides	211	147	39	22	3
Population	2189147	793633	608975	489049	297490
Homicide Rate	9.6	18.5	6.4	4.5	1.0

Homicide rate per 100,000 people, based on the 2000 Census.

U.S. Homicide rate = 5.7 (Source: Crime in the United States, 2003, FBI, Uniform Crime Reports)

Suicides

Suicides by Category for the Region

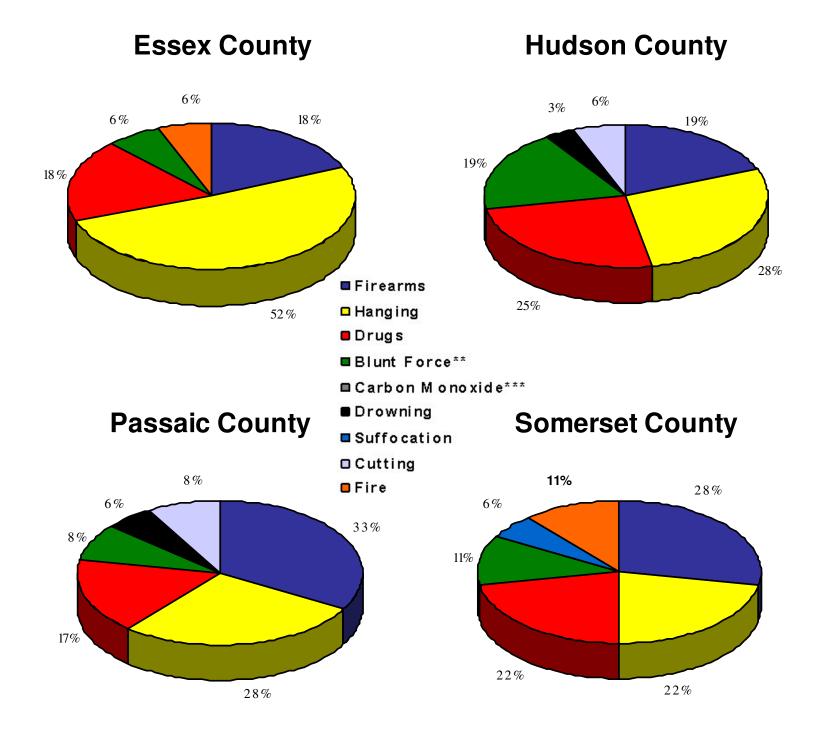


	Region	Essex County	Hudson County	Passaic County	Somerset County
Firearms	32	9	6	12	5
Hanging	48	25	9	10	4
Drugs	27	9	8	6	4
Blunt Force**	14	3	6	3	2
Carbon Monoxide***	0	0	0	0	0
Drowning	3	0	1	2	0
Suffocation	1	0	0	0	1
Cutting	8	3	2	3	0
Fire	2	0	0	0	2

^{**} Includes suicidal jumping from heights, in front of trains, and motor vehicles.

^{***} Exhaust fumes.

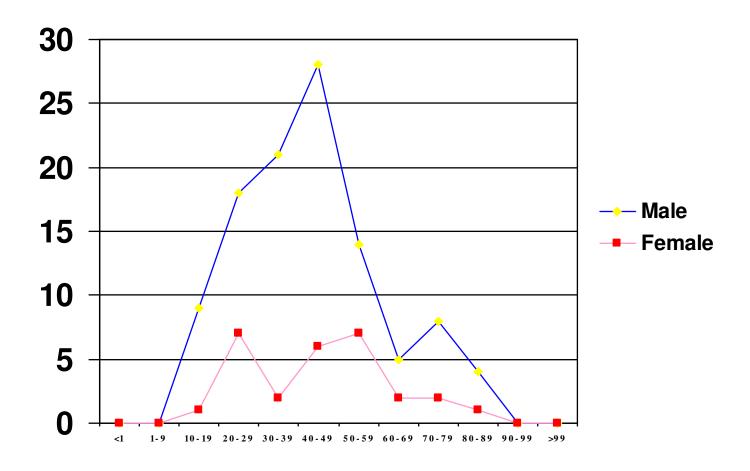
Suicides by Category for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



^{**} Includes suicidal jumping from heights, in front of trains, and motor vehicles.

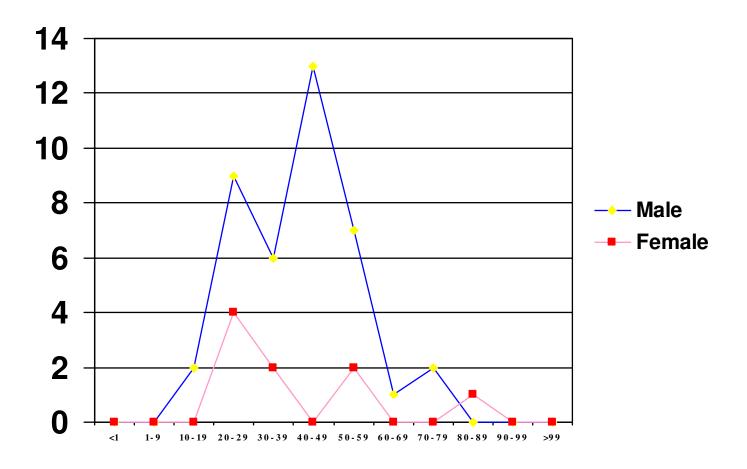
^{***} Exhaust fumes.

Suicides by Age and Gender for the Region



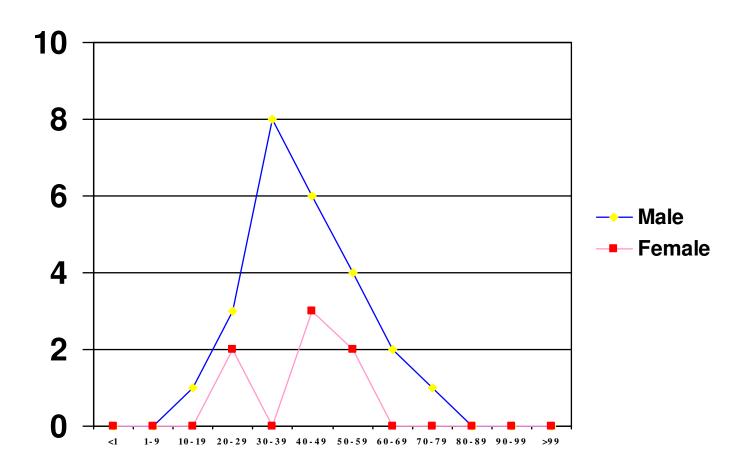
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99	>99
Male	0	0	9	18	21	28	14	5	8	4	0	0
Female	0	0	1	7	2	6	7	2	2	1	0	0

Suicides by Age and Gender for Essex County



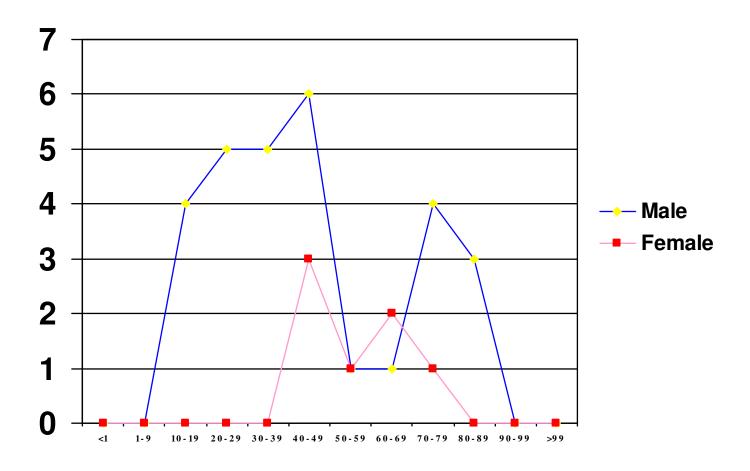
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99	>99
Male	0	0	2	9	6	13	7	1	2	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	4	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0

Suicides by Age and Gender for Hudson County



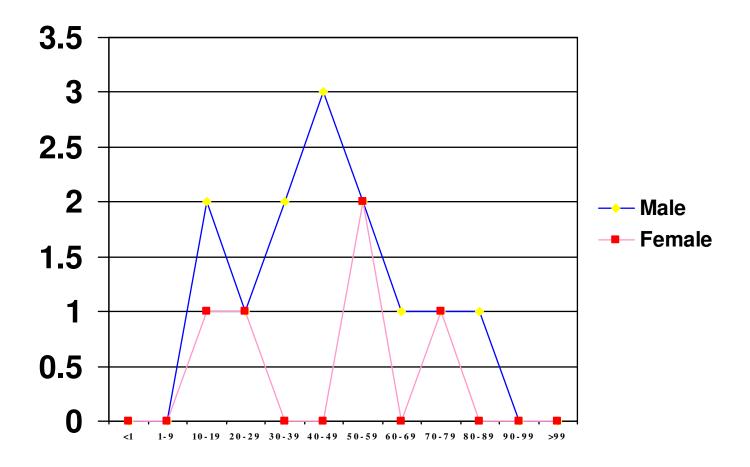
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99	>99
Male	0	0	1	3	8	6	4	2	1	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0

Suicides by Age and Gender for Passaic County



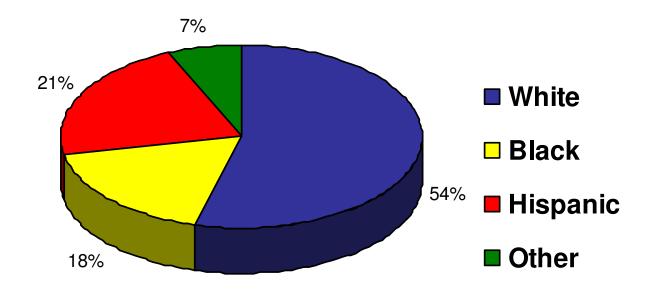
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99	>99
Male	0	0	4	5	5	6	1	1	4	3	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	0

Suicides by Age and Gender for Somerset County



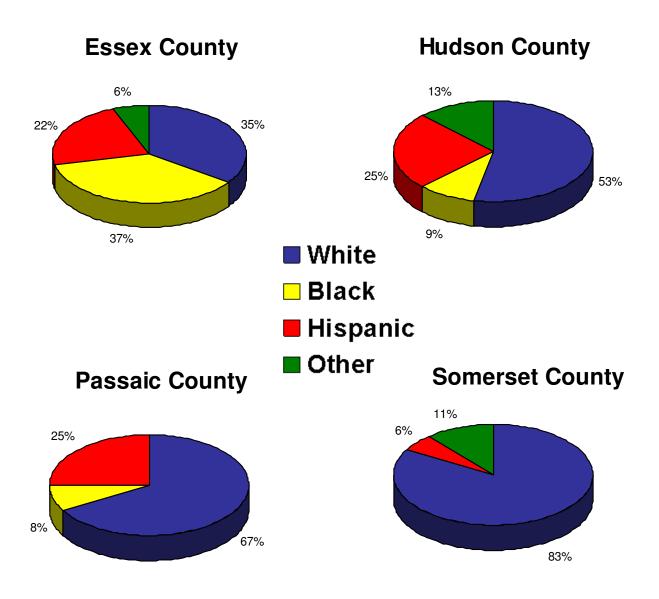
	<1	1 – 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 – 69	70 - 79	80 - 89	90 - 99	>99
Male	0	0	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	0	0
Female	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0

Suicides by Race for the Region



	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Region	73	24	29	9
Essex County	17	18	11	3
Hudson County	17	3	8	4
Passaic County	24	3	9	0
Somerset County	15	0	1	2

Suicides by Race for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



Drug Abuse

Drug Abuse Cases* (Illicit Drugs)

	Region	Essex County	Hudson County	Passaic County	Somerset County
Amphetamine & Methamphetamine	3	2	1	0	0
Cannabinoids	71	42	16	8	5
Cocaine & Metabolites	237	138	52	40	7
Ethanol	425	194	102	104	25
Methadone	82	49	18	9	6
Methaqualone	0	0	0	0	0
Opiates	264	148	62	45	9
Phencyclidine (PCP)	9	4	3	2	0
Fentanyl	7	2	3	1	1

^{*} Includes drug related fatalities and drug positive cases from all manners.

Drug Abuse Cases (Illicit Drugs) - Combinations

	Region	Essex County	Hudson County	Passaic County	Somerset County
Opiates & Cocaine (No Ethanol)	77	51	17	7	2
Opiates, Cocaine, & Ethanol	29	15	7	7	0
Opiates & Ethanol (No Cocaine)	34	17	9	7	1
Cocaine & Ethanol (No Opiates)	44	22	11	10	1
Cannabinoids with additional drugs or Ethanol	41	23	8	5	5

Drug Positive Cases (Illicit Drugs) By Manner of Death for the Region

	Natural	Accident*	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined
Amphetamine & Methamphetamine	0	1	1	1	0
Cannabinoids	8	18	8	37	0
Cocaine & Metabolites	17	163	15	39	1
Ethanol	178	137	31	72	7
Methadone	24	43	4	9	1
Methaqualone	0	0	0	0	0
Opiates	50	174	14	24	2
Phencyclidine (PCP)	0	3	0	6	0
Fentanyl	3	3	0	0	1

[•]Category includes deaths due to direct or contributory effect of drugs and other accidental deaths with positive drug screen.

Drug Abuse Cases – Causative or Contributory

	Region	Essex County	Hudson County	Passaic County	Somerset County
Total Drug Positive Cases	964	472	235	195	62
Deaths Due to Drugs	306	148	78	55	25

Death in Custody

Deaths in Custody for the Region

		Location		
	State Prison	County Jail	City Jail	Psychiatric Facility
Region	6	26	7	9
Essex County	6	10	6	3
Hudson County	0	11	1	1
Passaic County	0	4	0	4
Somerset County	0	1	0	1

			Manner			
	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined
Region	48	31	5	9	3	0
Essex County	25	14	2	6	3	0
Hudson County	13	10	1	2	0	0
Passaic County	8	6	1	1	0	0
Somerset County	2	1	1	0	0	0

Pediatric Cases

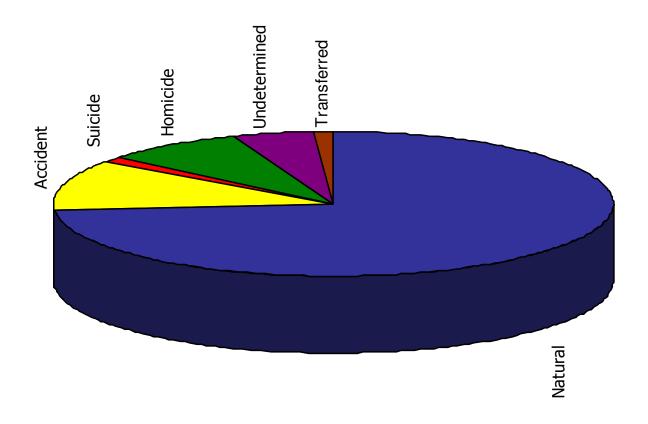
Fetal Deaths

There were a total of 20 deaths reported, 14 of which were accepted.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

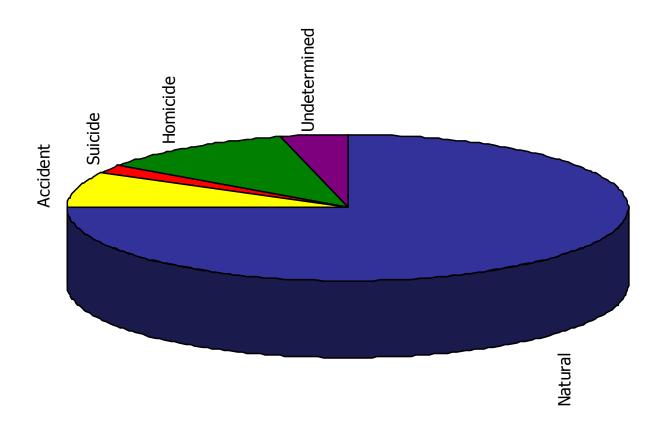
	Reported	Accepted	Autopsy	View
Region	12	12	12	0
Essex County	6	6	6	0
Hudson County	3	3	3	0
Passaic County	3	3	3	0
Somerset County	0	0	0	0

Pediatric (15 years of age and less) by Manner of Death for the Region



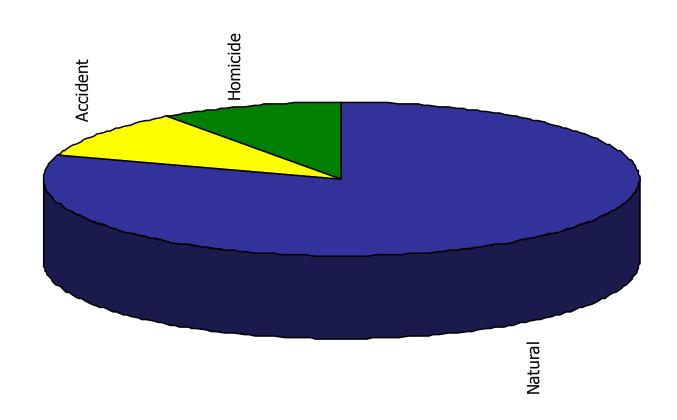
	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Transferred	Pending
Reported Cases	87	64	10	1	7	4	1	0
Percent	100	73.6	11.5	1.1	8.0	4.6	1.1	0

Pediatric (15 years of age and less) by Manner of Death for Essex County



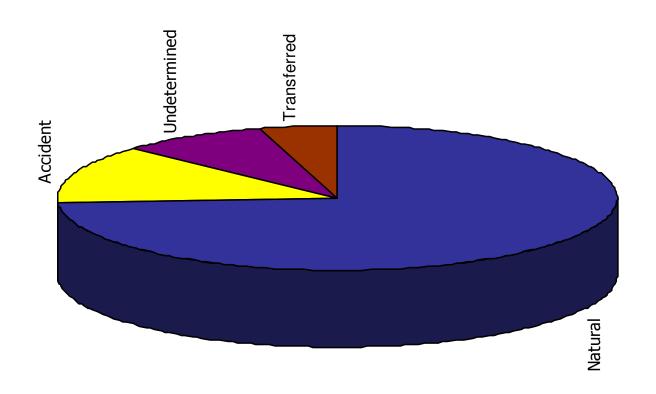
	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Transferred	Pending
Reported Cases	52	39	4	1	6	2	0	0
Percent	100	75.0	7.7	1.9	11.5	3.8	0	0

Pediatric (15 years of age and less) by Manner of Death for Hudson County



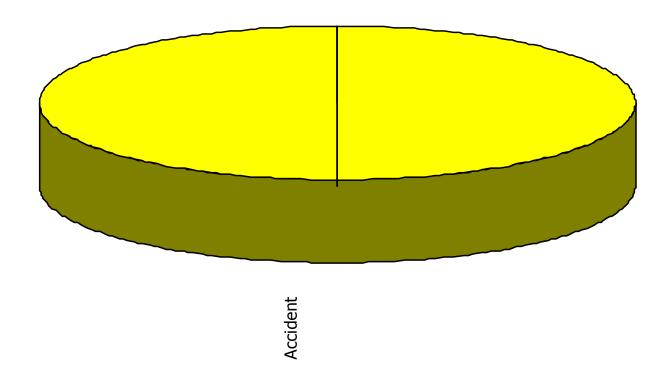
	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Transferred	Pending
Reported Cases	10	8	1	0	1	0	0	0
Percent	100	80.0	10.0	0	10.0	0	0	0

Pediatric (15 years of age and less) by Manner of Death for Passaic County



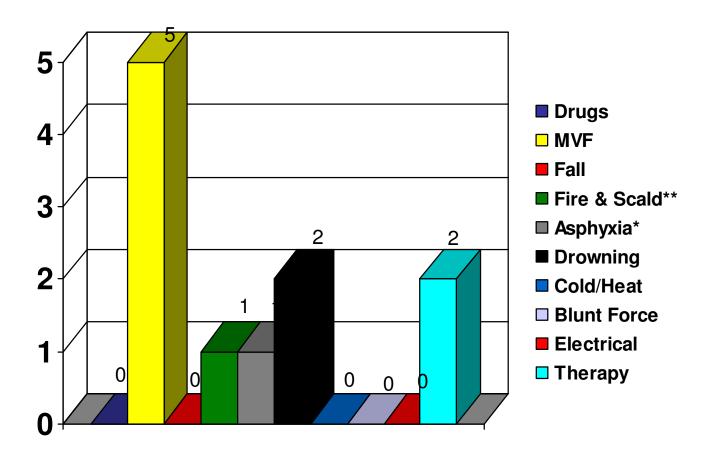
	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Transferred	Pending
Reported Cases	23	17	3	0	0	2	1	0
Percent	100	73.9	13.0	0	0	8.7	4.3	0

Pediatric (15 years of age and less) by Manner of Death for Somerset County



	Total	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Transferred	Pending
Reported Cases	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Percent	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	0

Pediatric (15 years of age and less) Accidents by Category for the Region

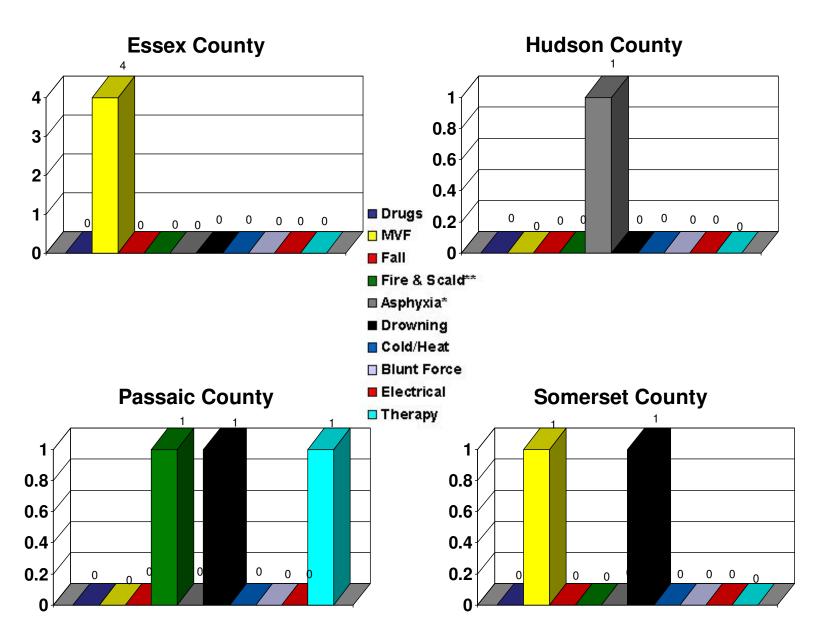


	Total	Drugs	MVF	Fall	Fire & Scald**	Asphyxia*	Drowning	Cold/Heat	Blunt Force	Electrical	Therapy Related
Region	10	0	5	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1
Essex County	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hudson County	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Passaic County	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Somerset County	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

^{*}Includes positional, choking, traumatic asphyxia, and Carbon Monoxide.

^{**}Includes smoke inhalation.

Pediatric (15 years of age and less) Accidents by Category for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



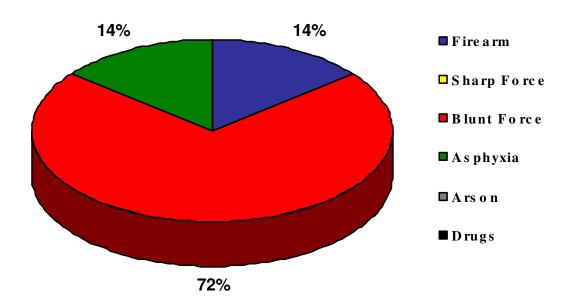
^{*}Includes positional, choking, traumatic asphyxia, and Carbon Monoxide.

^{**}Includes smoke inhalation.

Pediatric (15 years of age and less) Suicide

There was one pediatric suicide from Essex County which was the result of hanging.

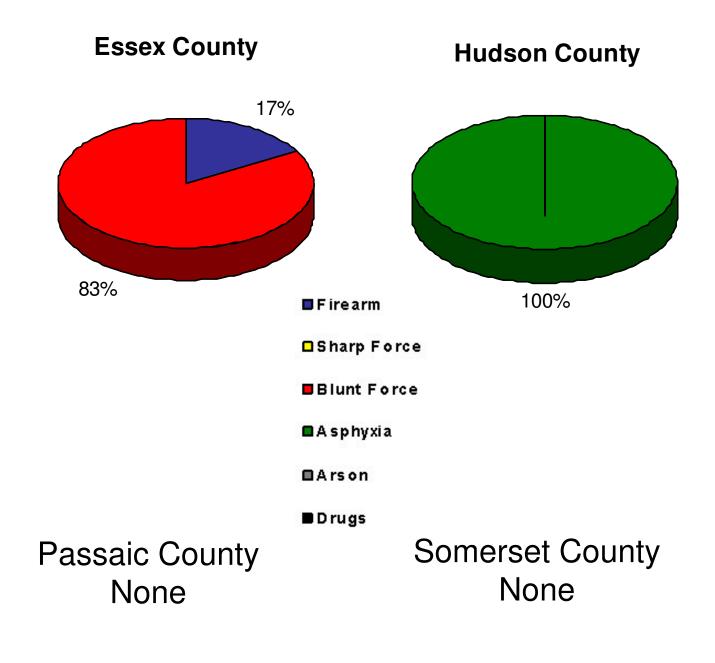
Pediatric (15 years of age and less) Homicides by Category for the Region



	Region	Essex County	Hudson County	Passaic County	Somerset County
Firearm	1	1	0	0	0
Sharp Force	0	0	0	0	0
Blunt Force	5	5	0	0	0
Mechanical Asphyxiation	1	0	1	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	0	0	0	0	0

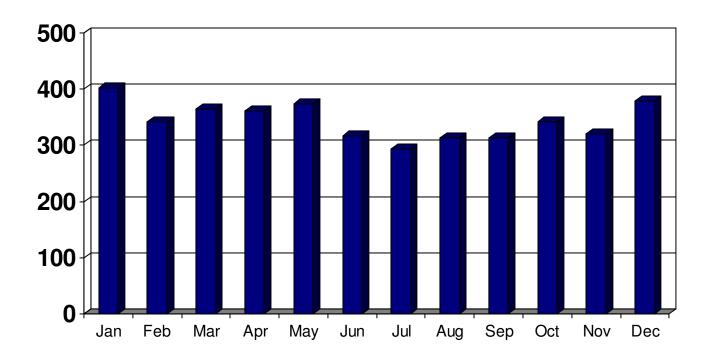
72

Pediatric (15 years of age and less) Homicides by Category for Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset Counties



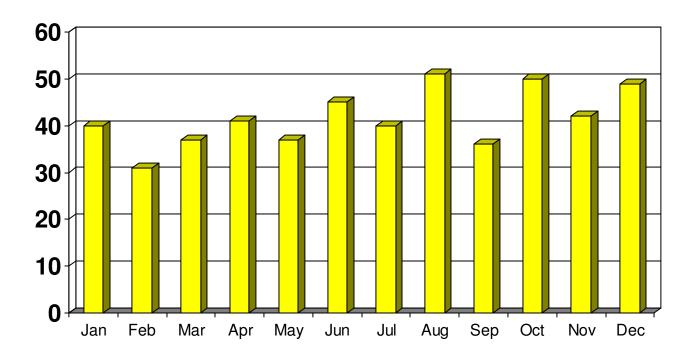
Manner by Month

Naturals by Month for the Region



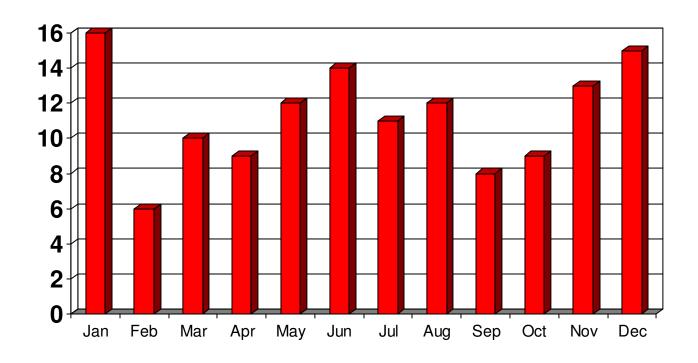
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
402	342	365	362	374	316	293	314	314	341	320	379

Accidents by Month for the Region



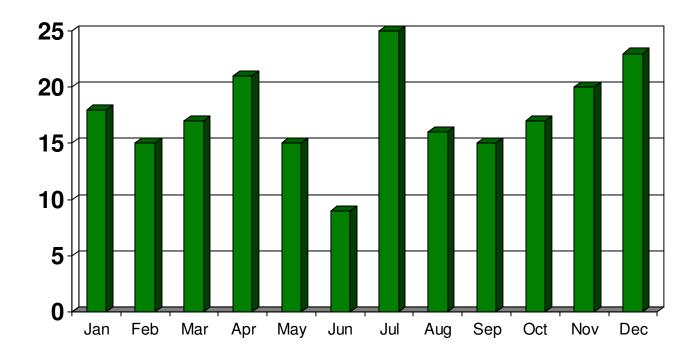
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	31	37	41	37	45	40	51	36	50	42	49

Suicides by Month for the Region



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	6	10	9	12	14	11	12	8	9	13	15

Homicides by Month for the Region



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
18	15	17	21	15	9	25	16	15	17	20	23



We wish to thank everyone at the Regional Medical Examiner Office for their hard work, especially Lois A. Gonzalez and Ralph Gagliano for their outstanding effort in the production of this report.

